The City of Saint John

SAINT JOHN

News Release

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The City of Saint John receives 2008
Federation of Canadian Municipalities-CH2M HILL Sustainable Community Award

Responsible Operating Practices save $5.1 million since 1996

The City of Saint John has been awarded a 2008 Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)-CH2M HILL Sustainable Community Award in the *Energy* category for The City of Saint John Municipal Energy Efficiency Program (MEEP). The award was announced at an Awards Ceremony held on Saturday, May 31st during FCM's 71st Annual Conference and Municipal Expo in Quebec City.

The City of Saint John is the only award winner in the *Energy* category, one of eight categories of awards. Winners were chosen out of 56 municipal government submissions received by the FCM. Saint John Mayor Ivan Court, who is also the New Brunswick representative on the FCM National Board of Directors, was in attendance in Quebec City Saturday evening to receive the award on behalf of The City.

As of 2007, the City-adopted MEEP procedures have resulted in the current annual savings of $1.24M, 10M kWh, 5792 CO2 tons and 320000L of fuel from 1996 to 2007 – in other words – The City of Saint John has reduced its ecological footprint by 17%. Cumulative savings since 1996 total $5.1M.

"This award is a tremendous honour for The City of Saint John and speaks to how we are working toward developing sustainability practices that will provide all City departments with clear direction and a code of conduct when making decisions that affect our City and its resources," said Mayor Ivan Court. "One of our community goals in The City of Saint John's Vision 2015 is environmental responsibility, and The City is setting the standard and taking full responsibility to ensure municipal operations are efficient and responsible."

"We use the best technology to create our own solutions and are willing to challenge ourselves in our role as environmental stewards," said Samir Yammine, Energy Manager for The City. "Departments understand their role in sustainability, are eager to continue working together, and are committed to implementing new sustainable initiatives."

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"On behalf of FCM, I want to congratulate the City of Saint John for winning a 2008 Sustainable Community Award in Energy," said the President of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), Winnipeg Councillor Gord Steeves. "Along with winners in other categories, the City of Saint John's Municipal Energy Efficiency Program is contributing creative and practical solutions to some of the critical issues of the environment and sustainable development that governments all over the world face today."

The City of Saint John adopted MEEP as its environmental and fiscal code in 1996, pre-empting Kyoto. The implementation followed the first comprehensive annual analysis of energy consumption and related costs of municipal operations. The program has been quietly working for 10 years to meet its main objective: reduce municipal operations energy consumption by 25% by 2011.

By implementing environmentally responsible operating practices, The City of Saint John's continued reduced energy usage will reduce total emissions and improve air quality and overall health. MEEP supports the efforts of other citizen and environmentally focused organizations that are working with the same intent, that is, to become even more environmentally responsible.

The City of Saint John MEEP, along with the other winning submissions, will be featured in the 2008 Sustainable Community Awards video which will be launched at the Awards Ceremony, as well as in the 2000-2008 FCM-CH2M HILL Sustainable Community Awards DVD which will be available in September 2008.

Since 2000, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' (FCM) Green Municipal Fund (GMF) and CH2M Hill have been recognizing municipal governments across Canada with Sustainable Community Awards for leadership in environmental excellence and innovation in service delivery.

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Backgrounder

The City of Saint John Municipal Energy Efficiency Program (MEEP)

(Due to unexpected delays in translation, the French version of the backgrounder will be posted on www.saintjohn.ca as soon as it becomes available. A cause d'un retard inattendu, la version française sera disponible dès que possible au site web www.saintjohn.ca)

In 1996, the Environment Committee of The City of Saint John initiated the Municipal Energy Efficiency Program (MEEP). This committee is a coalition of community volunteers from various industry and government sectors, the business community, citizen representation and employees of the City of Saint John.

1997 was the pilot year for MEEP. Various municipal buildings were chosen to undertake full energy retrofits and test MEEP. Because it was proven successful, MEEP was extended to include other departments and the water utility in 2000, and other commission buildings indirectly managed by the City were included in the program. As a result, in 2004, an Energy Management Program was created and is an integral part of the City Capital Program.

The City's Environment Committee also assisted the MEEP team in establishing goals to complement the City's environmental direction, and MEEP is a part of their mandate and activities and is sanctioned under its 2001 Energy Management Policy. The alignment of sustainability principles and goals with the Environment Committee ensures a common and united approach to policy development and decision making. The Environment Committee and Vision 2015 Plan will further the MEEP by weaving the principles into the Sustainability Plan.

The City of Saint John has a dedicated Energy Manager with an assistant to constantly monitor and conduct energy audits on the building energy systems and to provide recommendations for reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions. A state of the art web based software system has also been installed to allow department heads, managers and city staff to remotely monitor the current status of the their building energy system (i.e. HVAC, lighting, energy consumption metering, etc) and report any deficiencies. This is a multi-user system that can be accessed remotely from any computer and gives staff more control of their work environment.

For all municipal operations, MEEP measures total energy consumption by an automated system remotely controlled by the Energy Management Control System Team. The system assists facility and department managers to monitor and manage the energy performance within each building and plant, including space temperature, fresh air and carbon dioxide levels. This system allows them to promptly report any deficiencies through a computerized system and to make recommendations that improve building efficiency. Also, the installation of a new lighting system has improved the quality of light and eliminates the noise level and glare associated with the old system. Currently, 30 buildings and plants are connected to the energy monitoring system.

The Energy Management Division has developed and installed a computerized energy monitoring and tracking system capable of calculating and monitoring the economical benefits (life cycle-

cost savings, energy savings and total capital cost of the measures) and environmental benefits (reduction in CO2 tons, KWH, GJ, liter of oil) of our efforts. Also, an Energy Management Control System (EMCS) has been installed in each building to monitor, manage and control the total energy profile of city-owned buildings.

MEEP has improved building comfort and work place conditions for the over 900 staff who work for the City. In the City's public facilities, simple measures such as improved lighting and radiant heat directed to facility seats and floors have improved comfort and yielded greater energy efficiency and cost effectiveness. Modern and efficient materials ensure quality and lasting upgrades. Modern furnace systems provide ample heating and ventilation using less space and at a lower cost.

The foundation of MEEP's success lies in the working partnerships developed by the Project Team with municipal department executives and staff. Partnerships have been developed with City boards and commissions and strong working partnerships exist with Leisure Services, Municipal Operations and the Fire Department as they represent nearly 35% of annual savings. A critical partnership is that with Saint John Energy which collects the data used to continually monitor efforts. The Energy Manager works closely with each department, board and commission and chairs the Energy Efficiency W rking Group with departmental representation

The City is in the process of assessing a conceptual design for the development of a GEO-Exchange distribution loop for Uptown Saint John using the Bay of Fundy to provide district heating/cooling to new/existing infrastructure. Also the City made a commitment in 2007 to construct a LEED Gold Police Headquarters and LEED Silver Transit Building. A green parking facility implementation plan will see the facility have zero CO2 greenhouse gas emissions.

Through energy awareness seminars and presentations, City staff have been provided with information to further reduce energy consumption at work as well as in their homes. The City has developed an Energy Management Committee to discuss and advance energy programs.

MEEP is a transferable and cost effective prototype for other municipalities. The City has worked with the town of St. Andrews to develop their own energy management program and has held several meetings with the City of Fredericton to advise them on successful implementation of the program. MEEP supports the efforts of other citizen and environmentally focused organizations that are working with the same intent, that is, to become ever more environmentally responsible.

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and CH2M HILL Canada established the FCM-CH2M HILL Sustainable Community Awards in 2000 to recognize and celebrate municipal leadership in championing sustainable community development and promoting best practices in addressing environmental issues in municipal operations. Along with environmental benefits, winning projects demonstrate the economic and social advantages of sustainable community development. FCM's Green Municipal Fund (GMF) and CH2M HILL Canada Ltd. are the primary sponsors of the Awards. For further information on the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, please visit http://www.fcm.ca/